

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on March 26, 2008. Claims 1-9, 13-17 and 21-23 are currently pending in the application, with Claims 1, 13 and 21 being in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that the claims pending in this application, namely Claims 1-9, 13-17 and 21-23, are fully supported by the specification, introduce no new subject matter, and are patentable over the prior art. Favorable review is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 7-9

Claims 1-4 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Natarajan et al. (US 6,955,777). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

Natarajan et al. is directed to a method of forming a plate for dispensing chemicals. Natarajan et al. does not describe or suggest the recited “introducing a first reagent in one of said vertical apertures and reacting said first reagent with a second reagent” of Claim 1. In contrast, Natarajan et al. describes a method of forming a plate. It is respectfully submitted that the method described in Natarajan et al. is directed to a different process from the method described by applicants’ claims. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Natarajan. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested

Claims 2-4, and 7-9 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1, and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons given above for independent Claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5-6, 13-17 and 21-23

Claims 5-6, 13-17 and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Natarajan et al. In the Office Action, the Examiner states that although Natarajan et al. do not disclose a source of rinsing liquid, it would have been obvious to one skilled in art to recognize the structure would have required washed/rinsed in between usage to avoid cross contamination. However, it is respectfully submitted that the method described in Natarajan et al. is different from that of the present claims.

With respect to Claims 5-6, it is respectfully submitted that these claims depend on independent Claim 1 and are therefore patentable at least for the same reason that Claim 1 is patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

With respect to Claim 13-17 and Claim 21-23, these claims make no mention of a rinsing liquid. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

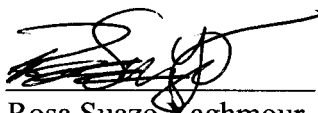
In addition, with respect to Claims 13-17, as acknowledged in the Office Action, Natarajan et al. and the present claims are assigned to a common assignee.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now pending in this application, namely Claims 1-9, 13-17 and 21-23 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

No fee is believed to be due for the submission of this amendment. If any fees are required, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully Submitted,



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